

PETER VERNIERO
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON 2-26-97

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC
SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
DOCKET NO.

In the Matter of)	
)	Administrative Action
BARBARA M. SOBEL, Ph.D.)	
)	CONSENT ORDER
Licensed to Practice Psychology)	
in the State of New Jersey)	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of complaints from J.F. and R.S. concerning certain professional practices by the respondent consisting, in pertinent part, of the provision of certain reports and letters in regard to J.F.'s daughter and an evaluation concerning R.S.'s son. The Board reviewed the entire record in this matter including responsive information provided by the respondent and additional information acquired at an investigative inquiry attended by the respondent and her counsel, Alison Wholey Mynick, Esq. and Lawrence S. Reynolds, Esq., on September 16, 1996.

In regard to the complaint filed by J.F., it appears to the Board that respondent failed to maintain the confidentiality of

client records by providing reports to a third party notwithstanding that he was not a parent or a guardian of the child; that there was a deviation from acceptable standard of care in that respondent provided an opinion in regard to the custody of a child and the fitness of a parent without ever having seen the parent; and that there was a violation of the Board's conflict of interest regulation in that respondent entered into a relationship which a reasonable psychologist in similar circumstances would expect to limit objectivity, impair professional judgment or increase risk of exploitation.

In regard to the second complaint, it appears to the Board that there was a deviation from the acceptable standard of care in that respondent did not conduct an appropriate evaluation for the purposes of making an opinion in regard to the emancipation of a young man; that respondent conducted no formal testing which would have been appropriate under the circumstances; and that respondent did not contact the complainant in spite of the fact that the young man lived with the complainant during the week.

It appearing that the respondent desires to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings and for good cause shown;

IT IS ON THIS 24th DAY OF February, 1997


HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall cease and desist any and all private practice of psychology. Respondent's practice of psychology shall be limited to her current employment at the UMDNJ wherein she is a Psychologist/Behavior Analyst with a Ph.D. and a licensed New

Jersey psychologist which is required for third-party insurance reimbursement. Her job is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of severe behavior disorders found in developmentally disabled persons. She works both independently and with a team of mental health professionals, under the general supervision of Dept. of Psychiatry-Developmental Disabilities, to determine the nature and extent of behaviors and behavioral approaches necessary to prevent, treat and manage these behaviors. She may be required to perform these functions alone or as a part of an interdisciplinary team if the patient is developmentally disabled with a co-existing psychiatric disorder. Upon completion of the evaluation, she may be required to provide training so parents and other caregivers can carry out the behavioral interventions necessary to ameliorate the behavior disorder. She is also responsible for follow-up studies of behavior which are provided by her on a regular basis until socially accepted behavior is attained. In the event the respondent terminates this position or obtains a new position at UMDNJ or new employment, prior written approval must be obtained from the Board.

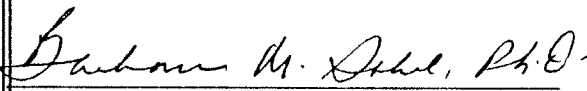
2. Respondent shall be assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000.00 payable in equal monthly installments over the next twenty-four (24) months. Said first payment is due upon the signing of this Order. The Penalty shall be submitted to the Board by certified check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey and submitted to Paul Brush, Executive Director of the Board, no later than the first day of the month following the entry of this Order.

3. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of the terms and conditions of this Order no sooner than two (2) years from its entry. Prior to any petition for modification, the respondent shall submit to a psychological evaluation with a Board appointed consultant. In addition, respondent shall be required to provide appropriate releases for information from her current employer and/or therapist in advance of any petition for modification. All costs associated with a petition for modification shall be borne by the respondent.

 Ed.D. 2/19/97

Kenneth G. Roy, Ed.D.
Chairman
State Board of Psychological Examiners

I have read and understand
the within Order and agree
to be bound by its terms.
Consent is hereby given to
the Board to enter this Order.


Barbara M. Sobel, Ph.D.